

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, prior to the first paragraph which begins on line 3, please insert the following:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 1, line 3, and which ends on page 1, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The invention relates to a method for reducing an amount of process data to be transferred from a field device, wherein the process data include information concerning the operating condition of the field device, and/or information concerning process variable registered with the field device, and/or identification data of the field device ~~according to the preamble of Claim 1, and an apparatus for executing the method, according to the preamble of Claim 12.~~

On page 1, prior to the second paragraph which begins on line 7, please insert the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 13, please insert the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 2, line 15, and which ends on page 2, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This object is achieved according to the invention, in that the process data occurring during an interval between two transfers of data is evaluated and stored, wherein the process data are reduced by means of the evaluating, and wherein the reduced process

~~data are transferred to a process control center with respect to the method, through the features of Claim 1, and, with respect to the apparatus, through the features of Claim 12. The dependent claims concern advantageous embodiments and developments of the invention.~~

On page 5, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 29, please insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 5, line 29, and which ends on page 5, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 1 is a schematic illustration of a distributed automation installation; and

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 5, line 31, and which ends on page 5, line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 2 is a schematic illustration of a flow diagram of the method according to the invention

On page 5, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 33, please insert the following:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT